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Three New Georgia Laws for Service Members

By Captain Samuel F. Wright, JAGC, USN (Ret.)

On April 15, 2014, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed three new laws that may be at least marginally helpful to military personnel and family members in that state.

Senate Bill 391 requires all Georgia medical facilities to apply to the TRICARE network during the next year. I don't want to overstate what this new law accomplishes. It does not require any medical facility to enter into a contract or to participate in TRICARE as a network or non-network provider. This new law only requires Georgia medical facilities to make a "good faith effort" in the application process. But perhaps at least a few additional medical facilities will start participating in TRICARE, and we can try next year to get the legislature to enact a law with teeth in it.

Senate Bill 320 provides that any Georgia court with jurisdiction over criminal cases may now establish a "veterans' court" division. Under Senate Bill 470, also signed into law on April 15, any active duty service member is now entitled to buy a Georgia resident hunting and fishing license, regardless of where he or she is stationed or domiciled.

ROA departments and chapters: Please push for state legislation benefiting those who are serving, have served, and will serve our nation in uniform, and please keep us informed about progress that is made.

Here at ROA headquarters, we have our hands full with monitoring and pushing for legislation at the federal level.